

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of reading information from a signal transmitted by a transmitter, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a phased array antenna;
adjusting said phased array antenna to receive said signal; and
reading information from said received signal.

2. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjusting step includes the steps of:

using said phased array antenna to determine a direction of incidence of said signal on said phased array antenna; and
electronically steering said phased array antenna toward said signal.

3. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of signals transmitted by said transmitter are incident upon said antenna and said adjusting step includes the steps of:

using said phased array antenna to determine a direction of incidence of a strongest of said signals on said phased array antenna, and
electronically steering said phased array antenna to receive said strongest incident signal.

4. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of signals transmitted by said transmitter are incident upon said antenna, said adjusting step includes the steps of:

using said phased array antenna to determine a direction of incidence of a highest quality of said signals on said phased array antenna; and
electronically steering said phased array antenna to receive the incident signal of the highest quality.

5. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adjusting step includes the steps of;

electronically steering said phased array antenna to receive said signal from said transmitter;

tracking any change in a direction of incidence of said signal; and

electronically steering said phased array antenna to receive said signal from any changed direction.

6. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 5, wherein said signal is comprised of an information carrying period and a non-information carrying period, and said steps of tracking and steering are performed substantially during said non-information carrying period of said signal.

7. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of providing a phased array antenna comprises the step of providing an LC phased array antenna.

8. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal transmitted by said transmitter comprises a frequency modulated video signal, and said adjusting step includes receiving said frequency modulated video signal.

9. A method of reading information as claimed in claim 8, wherein said frequency modulated video signal has a frequency in the range of 12.2GHz to 12.5GHz.

10. A method of reading information from at least two transmitters, each of said at least two transmitters transmitting a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a phased array antenna;

electronically steering said phased array antenna to concurrently receive a signal transmitted by each said transmitter; and
reading information from said received at least two signals.

11. A method of reading information from at least two signals transmitted by a transmitter, said method comprising the steps of;
providing a phased array antenna;
electronically steering said phased array antenna to concurrently receive said at least two signals; and
reading information from said received at least two signals.

12. A receiver for receiving an incident signal, said incident signal including information herein, said receiver comprising:
a phased array antenna, said phased array antenna comprising an antenna array of a plurality of spatially separated antenna elements, each of said antenna elements producing an associated electrical signal in response to said incident signal,
a phase shifter applying a phase shift to each said associated electrical signal and producing a corresponding phase shifted electrical signal,
a phased array controller, said phased array controller controlling the phase shift applied by said phase shifters to said electrical signals, and
a combiner for combining said phase shifted electrical signals thereby producing an electrical output signal, wherein said applied phase shifts result in the information contained in said incident signal being output.

13. A receiver as claimed in claim 12, further including a signal strength monitor, said signal strength monitor measuring the strength of said electrical output signal.

14. A receiver as claimed in claim 12, further including a signal quality monitor, said signal quality monitor measuring the quality of said electrical output signal.

15. A receiver as claimed in claim 12 wherein said incident signal is comprised of a frequency modulated analogue video signal.

16. A receiver for receiving at least two incident signals, said incident signals including information therein, said receiver comprising:

a phased array antenna, said phased array antenna comprising an antenna array of a plurality of spatially separated antenna elements, each of said antenna elements producing associated electrical signals in response to said incident signals,

at least two phase shifters, each phase shifter applying a phase shift to each said associated electrical signals and producing corresponding phase shifted electrical signals,

a phased array controller, said phased array controller controlling the phase shift applied by said phase shifters to said electrical signals applied by said additional phase shifter; and

a combiner for combining said phase shifted electrical signals thereby producing at least two electrical output signals, wherein said applied phase shifts result in the information contained in said at least two incident signals being output.

17. A receiver as claimed in claim 16, further including at least one signal strength monitor, said signal strength monitor measuring the strength of at least one of said at least two electrical output signals.

18. A receiver as claimed in claim 16, further including at least one signal quality monitor, said signal quality monitor measuring the quality of at least one of said two electrical output signals.